AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. Canceled.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as described in Claim 1,~~ A method for improving the security of software, comprising the steps of:

reading encrypted software from a non-volatile storage medium;

storing said encrypted software in a temporary storage medium; and,

contemporaneously decrypting a portion of said encrypted software as said portion is read into an instruction cache in a processor, and wherein any portion of said encrypted software not read into said instruction cache is left in an encrypted state.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim [~~1~~] 2, wherein said encrypted software comprises the steps of a computer program.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim [~~1~~] 2, wherein said temporary storage medium is computer RAM.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim [1] 2, wherein said step of decrypting said portion of said encrypted software is accomplished by a decryption unit located within said processor.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as described in Claim [1] 2, wherein said step of decrypting said portion of said encrypted software is accomplished by a dedicated decryption device.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for protecting the security of encrypted software, comprising:

a computer software non-volatile storage device for storing encrypted software;

a computer software temporary storage device for storing encrypted software, coupled with said computer software non-volatile storage device; and,

a processing device, coupled with said computer software temporary storage device, comprising an internal instruction cache and a decryption unit;

wherein said decryption unit is adapted to contemporaneously decrypt a portion of said encrypted software as said portion is written to said instruction cache of said processing device, and wherein any portion of said encrypted software not read into said instruction cache is left in an encrypted state.

8. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said non-volatile storage device is an optical storage device.

9. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said non-volatile storage device is a magnetic storage device.

10. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said non-volatile storage device is located remotely from said processor.

11. (Original) An apparatus as described in Claim 7, wherein said temporary storage device is computer RAM.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting the security of encrypted software, comprising:

a computing device capable of receiving and storing software, said computing device further comprising:

a computer software non-volatile storage device;

a computer software temporary storage device, coupled with said computer software non-volatile storage device; and,

a processing device, coupled with said computer software temporary storage device, and comprising an instruction cache and a decryption unit;

encrypted software, operable to be stored in said temporary software storage device;

wherein said decryption unit is adapted to contemporaneously decrypt a portion of said encrypted software as said portion is called to be written to said instruction cache of said

processing device, and wherein any portion of said encrypted software not to be written to said instruction cache is left in an encrypted state.

13. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said decryption unit is implemented in a hardware device.

14. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said decryption unit is implemented in software.

15. (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said encrypted software comprises the steps of a computer program.

16, (Original) A system as described in Claim 12, wherein said encrypted software comprises intellectual property intended to be processed by another computer program.